

heard indistinctly a systolic bruit in the course of the aorta ("anæmic bruit diagnosed"). He never had rheumatism or pain in his limbs. His voice is strong and clear; tongue moist and clean; has evidently an enlarged spleen bulging out of the left hypochondriac region; it can be distinctly felt through the abdominal walls; has enlarged glands in the left groin, about the size of a goose's egg; no other glands perceptibly enlarged; has general anasarca; skin pits on pressure in every part of the body and extremities; urine healthy, specific gravity 1017; bowels open; motions of a clay colour, "pale."

Mr. Stocker, the apothecary, saw the patient on the 8th of June, and ordered the following medicine: two grains of iodide of potassium, in an ounce of julep of ammonia, three times a day.

June 9. He had a good night. His blood was examined microscopically this morning, and was found to contain an excess of white corpuscles, "comparatively speaking;" but, in reality, there seemed to be a deficiency of the red corpuscles, rather than an excess of the white.

11th. Dr. Pavy prescribed five grains of the citrate of iron, with quinine, thrice a day.

13th. Has a severe headache this morning, and a troublesome cough is coming on, without any expectoration. To have five grains of extract of conium night and morning; also, five ounces of wine daily.

16th. Feels better since he has had the wine; cough much about the same. Ordered, lactate of iron, five grains; iodide of potassium, two grains; syrup of poppies, half a drachm; water, an ounce: three times a day.

18th. Expresses himself as being better; lower extremities still very œdematous; coughs a good deal at night.

July 4. Thirst excessive; appetite lost; expectoration more abundant, of a bluish gray, slightly frothy character, and strongly adherent to the bottom of the utensil.

8th. The patient evidently seems much worse; lies prostrate in bed; is not able to sit up for five minutes together; mouth and tongue very dry, the latter being brown in the centre, and white along the margins.

9th. Had a very restless night; respiration became hurried; pulse quick and feeble; eyes turned upwards; mouth wide open, and dry. Ordered, eight ounces of wine; ammonia and serpentaria.

10th. Unconscious; lies on his back, with his head thrown backwards; pulse rapid, and extremely feeble.

11th. Expired at 6 A. M. Died quietly.

*Post-mortem examination thirty-three hours afterwards.*—On opening the thoracic cavity, it was found to contain a larger quantity of fluid than is usually met with in health, and an excess of fluid was also found in the pericardium. Lungs free from adhesions; patches of softening were here and there found on cutting into them. Liver, kidneys, and heart healthy; the latter contained no clot, except a very small one in the left ventricle; blood being remarkably thin, like port wine and water mixed. Spleen enlarged; weighed twenty-four ounces and a half; full of white tubercles. Lumbar glands greatly enlarged; inguinal glands also enlarged.—*Lancet*, Aug. 27, 1859.

17. *Defective Assimilation in Infants—its Prevention and Treatment.*—Dr. ROUTH read a paper on this subject before the Medical Society of London. The object of the paper was to show that most of the mortality of infants was due to defective assimilation. Defective assimilation was almost always the result of want of breast milk and the use of injudicious food; the disease was most effectively prevented by supplying this milk. Dr. Routh then detailed the result of breast milk exclusively given, artificial food without breast milk and with it, or the development and mortality of children, from tables of Messrs. Merei and Whitehead; from which he showed that in proportion as breast milk predominated, in proportion was good development observed, and *vice versa*. He then showed that the most frequent diseases amongst children were abdominal diseases, occurring in the proportion of 23.4 per cent.; developmental diseases in that of 8.8 per cent. of all cases; rachitic diseases constituting 3.2 per cent.; atrophy or marasmus, 5.2 per cent. He believed, however, that all these were

produced by defective assimilation, the former in most cases being sequelaë of it; atrophy or marasmus being only the more marked and characteristic stage.

Dr. Routh then described the disease as consisting of three stages: first, or premonitory, in which peevishness, some loss of flesh, occasional attacks of indigestion, acid eructations, &c., were most prevalent; in the second stage, *emaciation* was more marked, eyes became unusually bright, much loss of digestive power, sometimes with diarrhœa and lientery; third, or exhaustive stage, generally attended with diarrhœa, aphthæ, frightful emaciation, complete loss of digestion, &c. Sometimes the disease from the second stage passed on to tuberculosis, rachitism, and most developmental disorders, and not to the third stage.

*Causes.*—The predisposing causes were—hereditary tubercular habit, and exanthemata; exciting causes—bad air, want of cleanliness, injudicious food, and especially an atmosphere contaminated by too many children being congregated together.

*Post-mortem appearances.*—Three kinds: emaciation very great, loss of adipose, cellular, and muscular tissue, in all varieties; but in one, where diarrhœa has been present, red patches, or aphthæ over the alimentary mucous membrane, these aphthæ often containing the *oidium albicans*. In other cases, also with diarrhœa, the mucous membrane exuding a reddish coloured mucus, intensely acid. In others, without diarrhœa or with it, Peyer's glands projecting, and enlarged in patches, as in Asiatic cholera. In all, undigested matter in canal, with very fetid fecal matters.

The disease seems to be gradual, passing on to entire loss of *primary* assimilation; the secondary still persisting, although inactive from want of assimilable matters to take up. Albuminous, starchy, and oily matters were not digested.

The *treatment* consists in supplying fatty acids and already artificially digested animal and occasionally vegetable substances, especially human milk. If this could not be sucked, it should be collected in a cup and given by the spoon. Dr. Routh strongly animadverted here upon the absurd dogma, that it is wrong to mix human and cow's milk. He, on the contrary, believed the plan not only safe, but the very best practice in many cases, and the only means of saving an infant's life. Simple juice of meat, and this with vegeto-animal food, he had found most useful in fulfilling these indications. The remedies were of two kinds: 1st. Those calculated to increase cell growth and development. Phosphate of soda, producing an emulsion with fats, thus allowing of their assimilation; chloride of potassium, to dissolve carbonate of lime; phosphate of lime, to enable blood to take up more carbonic acid, and thus hold in solution more carbonate of lime (these substances severally strengthening muscular and bony structure); lime-water, to provide lime to blood. 2d. These last also acted as some of the remedies calculated to allay local irritation of the alimentary canal. Carminatives were useful, such as dill, but especially cinnamon-powder, to correct flatulency and to check diarrhœa. Anodynes were also (however objected to generally) strongly recommended by the author. For the diarrhœa, when present, nitrate of silver and sulphate of copper were the best remedies. Wine was also found very serviceable, even if given in large quantities. These remedies, however, it must be confessed, proved in most cases of no avail in the third stage, which was, he might say, almost incurable; but they acted very effectively in the second and first stages.—*Lancet*, June 18, 1859.

18. *Traumatic Diabetes.*—Dr. PLAGGE reports a case brought on in a young man by a blow on the occiput, which, besides a swelling, seemed to produce no effect. In two or three days, however, the youth was seized with amblyopia, thirst, and craving for food, while he passed a large quantity of urine which yielded much sugar. There was no uneasiness about the liver nor jaundice. Tannin and opium together, with flesh diet, were prescribed during a week, with little effect, three or four quarts of urine being passed daily. Under the use of bicarb. of soda, with flesh diet, however, the sugar gradually disappeared from the urine, although this fluid continued to be passed in too great abundance, as simple polyuria, for two months longer.—*Med. Times and Gaz.*, June 11, 1859, from *Virchow Archiv*. B. xiii.